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Seventieth year

Letter dated 1 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Group, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Kuwait Declaration, adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at its forty-second session (Session of joint vision for the promotion of tolerance and denunciation of terrorism), which was held in the State of Kuwait on 27 and 28 May 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the aforementioned Declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 123 (t), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdulaziz **Aljarallah**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait addressed to the Secretary-General

Kuwait Declaration, adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at its forty-second session

(Session of joint vision for the promotion of tolerance and denunciation of terrorism), held in the State of Kuwait, on 9 and 10 Sha'ban A.H. 1436 (27-28 May A.D. 2015)

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) participating in the forty-second session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, meeting in Kuwait on 9 and 10 Sha'ban A.H. 1436 (27-28 May A.D. 2015) under the theme "Session of joint vision for the promotion of tolerance and denunciation of terrorism",

Declare as follows:

Affirming our full commitment to and support for the objectives and principles of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to benefit Muslim peoples and secure their common interests through a bilateral framework and the framework of our organization with the aim of promoting Islamic solidarity and coordinating joint Islamic action,

Supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General towards reform of OIC and improvement of its capacity in all fields with the aim of upgrading its performance to confront challenges and expand its relations, including through the opening of new regional offices for the Organization to support its objectives and serve its causes and international just causes,

We reiterate our full support for the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds al-Sharif and for the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and return. We stress that just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region is dependent on full Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab lands occupied in 1967, including the Syrian Arab Golan and occupied Lebanese territory, on the establishment of the Palestinian State with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital, and on finding an equitable solution to the Palestinian refugees issue, in accordance with relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab peace initiative.

We express our support for the presentation of a new draft resolution to the Security Council in order to end Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and to find a final settlement for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. We condemn and renounce the arrogant policies of the Israeli Government through its blockade of the Gaza Strip, building of settlements on Palestinian lines, expansion of the racial segregation wall, Judaization of Arab Al-Quds and attempts to make it a Jewish State. We express our support for the efforts and measures taken by the Palestinian State to accede to international institutions, charters, treaties and protocols.

We express our profound appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General of OIC to mobilize support for the Palestinian cause, and welcome the visits by the

Ministerial Contact Group on the City of Al-Quds al-Sharif to many influential States in order to support the search for a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee and the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Agency to protect the identity of Al-Quds al-Sharif and support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the holy city and safeguard their Islamic heritage.

We reiterate our commitment to the security and stability of Yemen and our support for the legitimacy embodied in President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi and for the conclusion of the political process in accordance with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanisms, the outcomes of the national dialogue, and Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and other relevant resolutions.

We commend the outcomes of the Riyadh Conference on "Saving Yemen and Building a Federal State", held from 17 to 19 May 2015 with wide participation of all political and social forces and constituents, civil society, youth and women's organizations, and the adoption of the Riyadh Document in accordance with the objectives set out by the President of Yemen in his letter to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques thus: "To preserve the security and stability of Yemen in the framework of adherence to legitimacy and reject the coup against it, to reject and delegitimize the so-called constitutional declaration, to return military ammunition and equipment to the State, to re-establish State authority to all Yemeni territory and bring Yemen to safety in order to enable the return of normalcy, to resume the political process in accordance with the Gulf Initiative and its Implementation Mechanisms, and the outcomes of national dialogue, and to ensure that Yemen does not become a base for terrorist and extremist organizations". We call on all Yemeni political constituents to respond urgently to the request of President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi for the resumption of dialogue with all parties.

We reiterate the contents of the communiqué issued by the OIC Ministerial Executive Committee in Jeddah on 15 February 2015; the communiqué issued by the extraordinary meetings of the Foreign Ministers of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf on 21 January, 7 February and 14 February 2015 on the grave situation in the Republic of Yemen; the resolution of the twenty-sixth Arab Summit, held from 26 to 29 March 2015; and the communiqué of the Arab Parliament of 17 February 2015.

We welcome the Restore Hope operation for the advancement and reconstruction of Yemen and express our deep appreciation for the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, for the establishment of a unified centre to coordinate the provision of assistance to the Yemeni people. We urge all States, including OIC States, regional and international organizations, including OIC bodies working in the development and humanitarian fields, to provide assistance and adopt the international programme for comprehensive economic and development support for the reconstruction of Yemen.

We call on the international community to adopt a firm position to end the violence and continued destruction of Syrian infrastructure, and to put an immediate end to the bloodletting and killing of Syrians; and we reaffirm the legitimate rights

of the Syrian people and our support for a political solution based on the resolutions of the Geneva 1 conference.

We call on all parties concerned to implement Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), and all other relevant resolutions.

We commend the State of Kuwait for hosting first, second and third conferences to support the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

We follow with deep interest the ongoing security incidence and political developments in Libya and call on all Libyan factions to assume their responsibilities to end the ongoing violence there and adhere to the only possible peaceful option for ending the Libyan crisis; we commend the relentless efforts exerted by the United Nations Special Envoy to Libya to find a political solution to the crisis, and reaffirm the need to commit to respect the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya, to abstain from interfering in its internal affairs and to preserve its full independence.

We reaffirm our support for the Libyan people in countering those willing to tamper with the security of Libya by providing the needed support to protect the Libyan borders, stopping illegal immigration and preventing the infiltration of terrorist groups and the flow of weapons and military equipment.

We follow the unfortunate developments in the security situation in Iraq and the attempts of the so-called "Daesh" terrorist group to undermine its security and stability; we reaffirm our support for the brotherly Republic of Iraq in preserving its security, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and support the serious and dedicated endeavours of the Iraqi Government to implement the national reconciliation programme with a view to consolidating the internal front and strengthening the national unity of the Iraqi people.

We welcome the framework agreement between the five plus one Group and the Islamic Republic of Iran and look forward to its finalization through the final signature arrangements at the end of next June. We also reiterate our call to the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with the international community so as to contribute to fostering peace and stability elements and to reinforce relations of good-neighbourliness.

While reiterating our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of any justification thereto, and denouncing terrorist attacks and all forms of incitement which affected many States and some States members of OIC, we express in this regard our strong condemnation of the terrorist act which recently targeted a mosque in the Al Qateef region in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and insist, in the same vein, on the need to combat terrorist groups and those who support and finance them and their heinous practices, which have nothing to do with the noble religion of Islam. We stress that those groups can by no means be linked to the noble Islamic religion because terrorism has no region or nationality.

We reiterate the need to work for drying up the sources of the funding of terrorism and commitment to relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions on combating terrorism and extremism, particularly the outcomes of the ministerial-level Executive Committee meeting held on 15 February 2015; we call for joining regional and international efforts to fight terrorism and extremist thought, and

commend the outcomes of the brainstorming session held at the Council of Foreign Ministers level in Kuwait on the importance of developing an effective strategy to combat terrorism and extremism.

We welcome in this regard the content of the Makkah Declaration, adopted by the International Islamic Conference on "Islam and the Fight against Terrorism", held in Makkah from 22 to 25 February 2015 under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, which called for distancing the members of the Islamic Ummah, regardless of their denominational affiliations, from dissent and fighting, and for developing a comprehensive strategy to dry up the sources of terrorism and extremist thought and promote trust among the youth of the Ummah.

We also reaffirm that combating terrorism and religious extremism is not done by engaging in a conflict with the upright religion of Islam, nor by propagating the concept of Islamophobia, but rather through wide cooperation, dialogue and constant communication with other societies, and through rejection of destructive ideas which incite violence and hatred, and emphasizing that the idea of openness and tolerance among peoples is, first of all, a human necessity advocated by divine religions.

We stress the importance of concerned efforts to consolidate cooperation among the peoples of the Member States in social, cultural and development areas as well as combating poverty. In that vein, we compliment the roles played by countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council in offering development assistance to States suffering from development challenges.

We welcome the outcomes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the OIC Ministers for Foreign Affairs (15 February 2015, Jeddah), the International Conference on Counterterrorism organized by the Muslim World League (22 February 2015, Makkah Al-Mukarramah), and the first international Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (Washington, D.C., February 2015), which further strengthen international, regional and bilateral cooperation, and we demand joint international efforts and ideological security and military coordination to counter extremism and terrorism firmly and relentlessly.

We also welcome Security Council resolution 2199 (2015) of 12 February 2015, which was adopted unanimously under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, on eliminating all sources of funding terrorism and strengthening control in areas captured by terrorists.

We condemn the gruesome atrocities committed by all terrorist organizations, including Daesh, Al-Qaeda and Jabhat Al-Nusra, against innocent civilians, as the escalation of violence and terrorist crimes threatens regional and international security and stability.

We reiterate our solidarity with Mali, Afghanistan, Somalia, the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Union of the Comoros, Djibouti, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Turkish Cypriots and the people of Kosovo, and their aspirations to live in peace, security and prosperity.

We also reiterate the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, pursuant to relevant Security Council resolutions.

We express our solidarity with the African countries, as further reflected in the Arab-African summit hosted by the State of Kuwait, in facing the security and development challenges and in combating poverty.

We denounce the practices against the Muslim Rohingya in the Arakan region of Myanmar, and call on the international community and the Member States to provide humanitarian assistance. We also call on the Islamic Group in Europe and Geneva to shed light on this issue and to mobilize international support to prevent their persecution and deprivation of their legitimate rights.

We praise the endeavours of the Secretary-General and the Expert Group in relation to the new OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action 2016-2025, which would advance socioeconomic, humanitarian, scientific and development fields to counter the challenges faced by the Islamic Ummah in the twenty-first century.

We express our appreciation of the decision by the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the forty-third session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in 2016.

We extend our congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of bestowal of honour on the State of Kuwait as a centre of humanitarian action, which reflects the role undertaken by the State of Kuwait in the humanitarian and development areas.

In concluding the forty-second session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, we extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, and to the people and Government of the State of Kuwait for their warm hospitality and for the outstanding organization of the present conference, which yielded the desired results from the work of OIC at the forty-second session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of joint vision for the promotion of tolerance and denunciation of terrorism).

State of Kuwait, 10 Sha'ban A.H. 1436 (28 May A.D. 2015)